

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11-17, 19, and 21-23 remain pending in the application. Claims 11-14 stand withdrawn. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 5-7, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (JP 11-174972) in view of Hinata (U.S. Pat. No. 6,369,865). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Notwithstanding, to expedite prosecution, Claims 3 and 5 are amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claims 4 and 8 respectively. Claims 4, 8 and 20 are cancelled. Claims 6 and 7 depend from amended claim 5. Accordingly, these rejections should be moot.

Claims 15-17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (JP 11-174972) in view of Hinata (U.S. Pat. No. 6,369,865), and further in view of Yanagawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,870,160). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Notwithstanding, to expedite prosecution, Claim 15 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 18. Claim 18 is cancelled. Claims 16, 17 and 19 depend from amended claim 15. Accordingly, these rejections should be moot.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

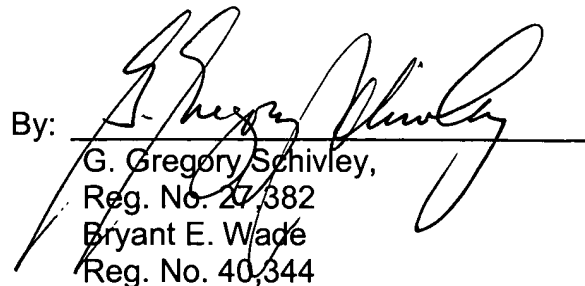
The Examiner states that claims 4, 8, and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants amended claims 3, 5 and 15 to include the limitations of allowable claims 4, 8 and 18. Applicant also acknowledges with thanks the allowance of claims 1, 9, and 21-23.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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